

Proverbs 4:1-19 — "A Father's Repetitious Instruction: At All Costs, Get God's Wisdom!"

- *God has given "the sacred writings [Scriptures /Bible] which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through with which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 3.15)!
- *God's leaders are to be full of the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6.3)
- *Unbelievers are unable to cope with the wisdom that God gives to his people (Acts 6.10)
- *O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God (Rom 11.33)
- *Jesus told his 12 to be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves' (Matt 10.16)
- *Every faithful pastor/preacher heralds the glory & wisdom of Christ & not the wisdom of this world (1 Cor 2.1-5)
- *God gives prudence, wisdom & discretion to the youth (Prov 1.4)

But! Beware! There is a HUGE iceberg to avoid = misdirected wisdom! [=worldly wisdom]

- *Be careful of false **prosperity**
- *Be careful of false **prestige**
- *Be careful of false **protection**
- *Be careful of false **pleasure**
- *Be careful of false **peers**
- *Be careful of false **promises**

• It's good for parents to bear in mind these 5 guardrails as we teach/train our kids/grandkids.

Consider the parent Solomon:

- ✓ **Repetition** — go over again & again & again
- ✓ **Imitation** — follow me and do what I do...
- ✓ **Transmission** — transmit truth from one generation to the next (impart, convey, pass on)
- ✓ **Caution** — Avoid & turn away from a dangerous path
- ✓ **Consolation** — what hope> the righteous path shines brighter & brighter till full day!

THESIS — This text can be divided into 4 brief fatherly exhortations. AT ALL COSTS, Get God's Wisdom!

1. ATTENTION! (1-4) // Listen up!
2. ACQUIRE! (5-9) // Learn it!
3. AVOID! (10-17) // Leave it!
4. ADVANCE! (18-19) // Labor on!

I. ATTENTION! (1-4)**II. ACQUIRE! (5-9)**

Verses 1-9 - note the conversation between father & son. At all cost, get wisdom! Note these lessons we glean:

1. Prioritize Biblical Instruction (v.4)
2. Be an Example (v.11)
3. Target the Heart (v.4a)
4. Emphasize Divine Promises (v.6b, 8, 9)
5. Remember Repetition Teaches!

III. AVOID! (10-17)

- In this parental instruction: vv.10-13 are more *positive*: 'do this' & vv.14-17 are more *negative*: "don't do this"

- SOME HELPFUL WAYS TO THINK OF THIS

1. **mandate** (v.10)- hear my son and accept

Proverbs 4:1-19 — "A Father's Repetitious Instruction: At All Costs, Get God's Wisdom!"

2. **modeling** (v.11) - I have led you...
3. **motivation** (v.12) - you will not stumble
4. **meditation** (v.13) - take hold...do not let go...guard her...

Many Christians never intended to choose the sinful lifestyles they eventually adopted, but because they played around the edges of sin, they soon became fascinated with it, and like Lot, who only intended to pitch his tent toward Sodom [Gen 13], ended up in the midst of it [Gen 19] (Jay Adams).

THE PRINCIPLE: it's not *how close* can I get to sin [or how close can I go & still be OK]. Rather; how far, how safe can I possibly be for God's great glory & my true joy?

B. v.16-17 - these wicked evildoers are *dangerous!*

IV. ADVANCE! (18-19)

A. This section closes with another summary comparison (vv. 18-19; cf. 1:32-33; 2:21-22; 3:35).

Conclusion:

God counted the wisdom of this world one of his greatest enemies: therefore, by *that* wisdom no man can come to Jesus Christ! (John Bunyan)

"But by God's doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written: Let him who boasts, boast in the LORD" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

THE REFORMATION HYMN

We will trust **God's Word alone**,
 Where his perfect will is known;
 Our traditions shift like sand
 While his Truth forever stands.
 We will live **by faith alone**,
 Clothed in merit not our own;
 All we claim is Jesus Christ
 And his finished sacrifice.

*Glory be, **glory be to God alone**,
 Through the church he redeemed and made his own.
 He has freed us, he will keep us till we're safely home
 Glory be, **glory be to God alone!***

We are saved **by grace alone**—
 Undeserved, yet freely shown;
 No accomplishment on earth
 Can achieve the second birth.
 We will stand **on Christ alone**,
 The unyielding Cornerstone;
 Nations rage and devils roar,
 Still he reigns forevermore!

CHRIST THE SURE AND STEADY ANCHOR

Christ the sure and steady anchor, in the fury of the storm
 When the winds of doubt blow through me, and my sails have
 all been torn
 In the suffering, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, through the floods of
 unbelief
 Hopeless somehow, O my soul now, lift your eyes to Calvary
 This my ballast of assurance, see His love forever proved
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, while the tempest rages on
 When temptation claims the battle, and it seems the night has
 won
 Deeper still then goes the anchor, though I justly stand
 accused
 I will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor, as we face the wave of
 death
 When these trials give way to glory, and we draw our final
 breath
 We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind and life secure
 And the calm will be the better, for the storms that we endure

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful ever true
 We will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed